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Letter dated 13 November 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 10 November 1997, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hüseyin E. ÇELEM
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Letter dated 10 November 1997 from Mr. Aytuğ Plümer addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the statements made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the meetings of the Third Committee held on 27 October and 4 November 1997 under agenda items 103, 104 and 107 (entitled "Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", "International Drug Control" and "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner For Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions", respectively). These statements contain allegations that grossly distort the realities of Cyprus and demonstrate yet again that the Greek Cypriot side is more interested in political posturing than the negotiated settlement of the Cyprus dispute. Since the Turkish Cypriot side is being denied its right of say in the said Committee, I am compelled to respond to these allegations in writing.

The Greek Cypriot representative, in a vain attempt to absolve the Greek Cypriot side from the responsibility of creating and perpetuating the conflict on the island, once again refers to Northern Cyprus, the homeland of the Turkish Cypriot people, as an area under "occupation" or "invasion". I wish to remind the Greek Cypriot representative that the only occupation in Cyprus is the 34-year-old usurpation and continued occupation by the Greek Cypriot side of the seat of government of the bi-communal Republic of Cyprus established under the 1960 treaties.

Much to the contrary of the charges contained in the aforesaid statements by the Greek Cypriot representative, the Cyprus question has not come about as a result of the legitimate Turkish intervention of 1974, but by the Greek Cypriot conspiracy and overt acts of violence during the period from 1963 to 1974 aimed at converting the bi-communal partnership State of Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot one. This is admitted by the Greek Cypriot leader, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, in his memoirs entitled Cyprus: My Deposition, in the following words: "... the Greek Cypriot preoccupation was that Cyprus should be a Greek Cypriot State, with a protected Turkish Cypriot minority" (vol. 3, p. 105).

As regards the question of displaced persons, it should be mentioned that nearly four fifths of the Turkish Cypriot population have been rendered refugees or have become displaced persons since 1963, some of them several times over, as a result of the Greek Cypriot side's attempts to annex Cyprus to Greece. It should be recalled that the issue of displaced persons was fundamentally settled between the two sides through the third Vienna agreement of 2 August 1975, whereby the two sides formally agreed to exchange populations. The agreement was implemented under the supervision of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus in September 1975, paving the way for bi-zonal, bi-communal settlement of the Cyprus issue. (See S/11789 of 5 August 1975 and S/11789/Add.1 of 10 September 1975.)

A natural consequence of the population exchange agreement has been the establishment of parameters within which reciprocal property claims by both sides can be settled, as outlined in the United Nations set of ideas of 1992 in

which a global solution to this issue is envisaged through property exchange and/or compensation. The exploitation of this issue by the Greek Cypriot side for propaganda purposes is clearly aimed at prejudicing a bi-zonal settlement, which has been universally accepted as a fair and realistic approach. Its attempt, on the other hand, to impute responsibility to Turkey on this matter by citing a short-sighted, politically inclined court decision, which fails to take into account the bi-zonal, bi-communal framework for a solution, has similar ulterior motives. By way of emphasis, it should be reiterated that Turkey's role in Cyprus is limited to providing security guarantees to the Turkish Cypriots and preventing the repetition of Greek Cypriot aggression against them.

It is unfortunate that the Greek Cypriot side should continue to resort to such harmful propaganda in order to mislead the international community about the Cyprus question in general, as well as the various issues pertaining to it. This can only be interpreted as another demonstration of the Greek Cypriot side's insincerity about a bi-zonal settlement and of its strategy of buying time until it secures unilateral European Union membership in the name of "Cyprus", in complete disregard of international treaties on Cyprus and the established parameters for a comprehensive settlement.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Aytuğ Plümer
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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